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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 3330.2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Balaban

Examiner: C. Wilder

Serial No: 09/697,877

Group Art Unit: 1645

Filing Date: October 26, 2000

Inventor: Balaban

Title: **METHODS FOR MONITORING
THE EXPRESSION OF
ALTERNATIVELY SPLICED GENES**

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NOV 29 2002

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT/RESPONSE

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2002 and pursuant to an interview with the Examiner on August 21, 2002, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejections and reexamination of the present application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the first paragraph on page 4 as follows:

In one aspect of the invention, a nucleic acid probe array comprising a set of probes to interrogate the joining sequence between a first sequence element and a second sequence element is provided. In some embodiments, the probes on the probe array are oligonucleotides. The first sequence element may be a first exon and the second sequence element may be a second exon. The joining sequence is the portion of the sequence